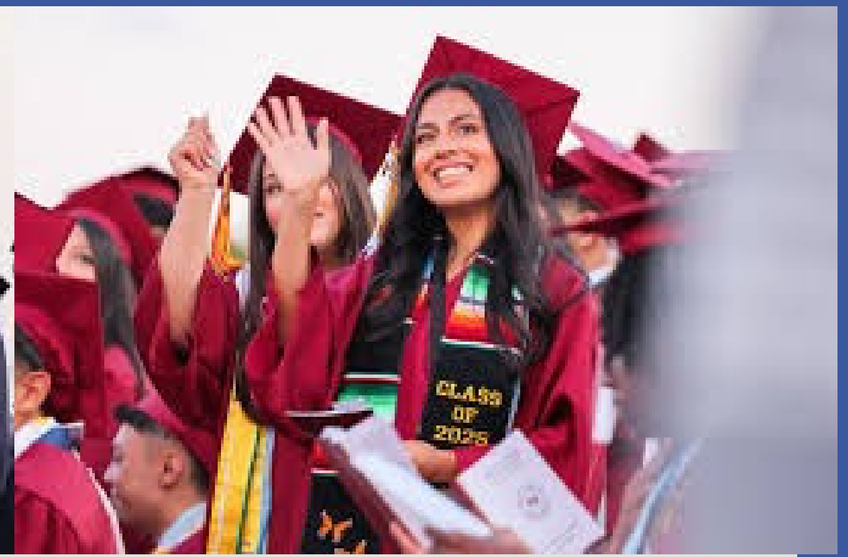
2026

Preparing for the Future

Graduation Requirement Updates







BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BELLFLOWER • CERRITOS • LAKEWOOD

WHY UPDATE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

ENSURE EVERY GRADUATE IS NOT JUST "FINISHED" WITH HIGH SCHOOL, BUT COMPETITIVE FOR THE WORLD

TO ALIGN MORE CLOSELY WITH UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXPECTATIONS AND MODERN WORKFORCE DEMANDS

TO PRIORITIZE STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH) AND REAL-WORLD CAREER PATHWAYS



ENSURE EVERY GRADUATE IS CONFIDENT AND READY FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL (FUTURE READY!)

BUSD: Actions for Momentum and Long-Term Success

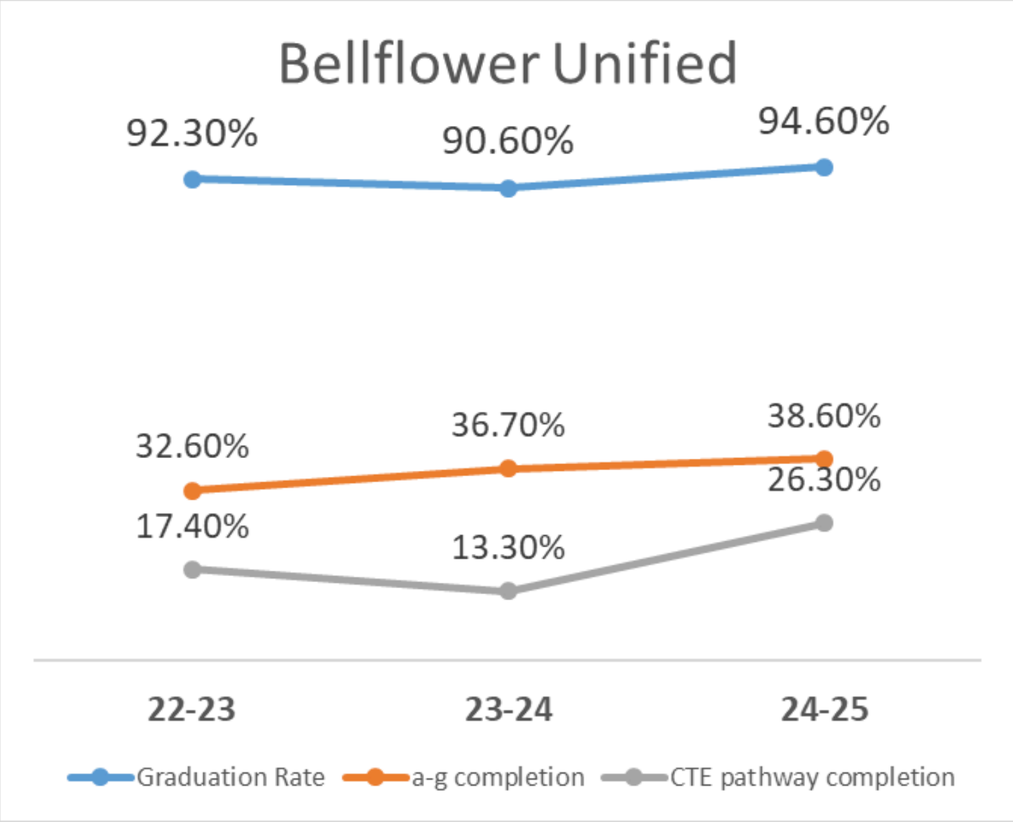
Superintendent Goal: Strengthen Student Pathways to Academic and Career Success

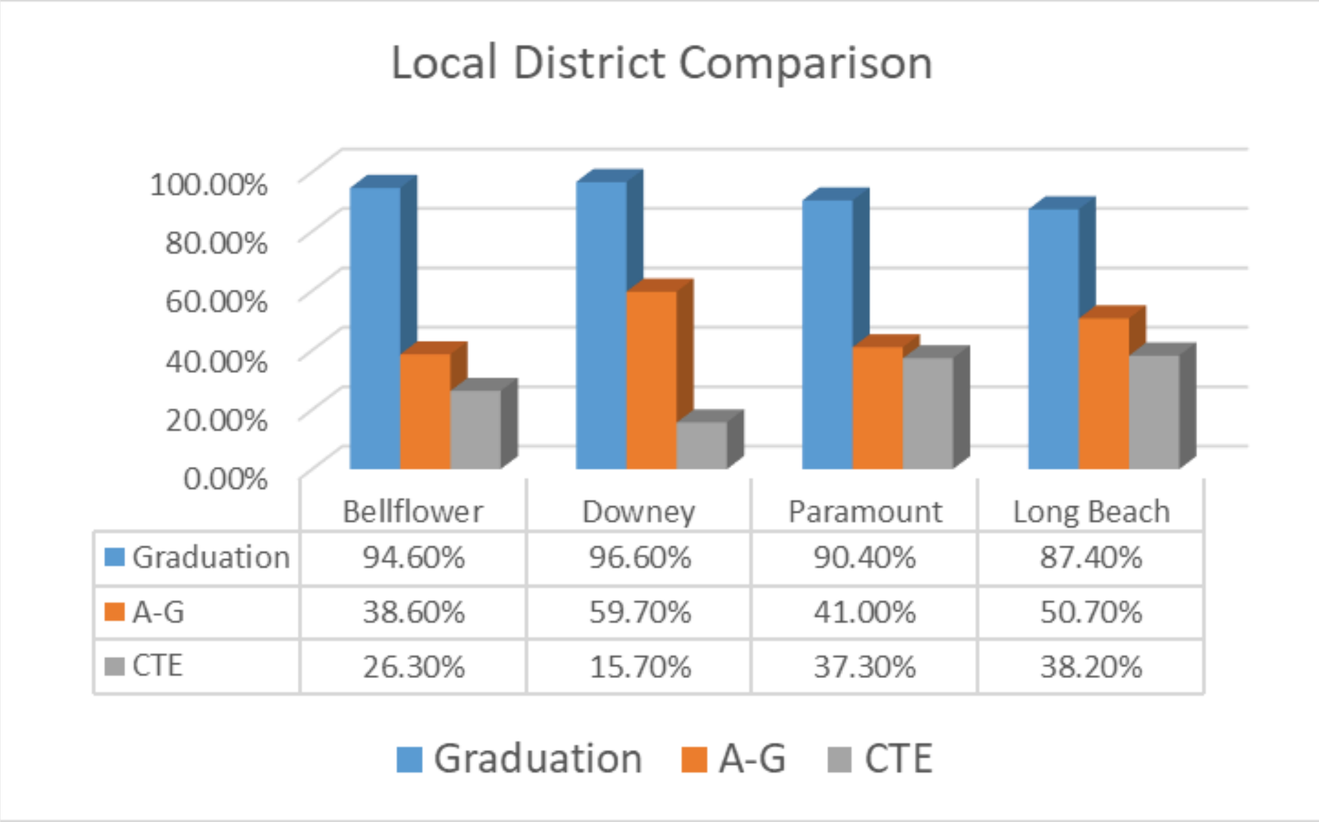




- Increase Graduation & A-G Rates to 100%
- Enhance Curriculum and Instruction for Student Achievement
- AP, CTE, and Dual Enrollment Expansion

Current Status





	Bellflower	Downey	Paramount	Long Beach
Graduation	94.60%	96.60%	90.40%	87.40%
A-G	38.60%	59.70%	41.00%	50.70%
CTE	26.30%	15.70%	37.30%	38.20%

PATHWAYS TO YOUR FUTURE: GRADUATION VS. COLLEGE ADMISSION

A quick guide for California high school students (Class of 2026). To earn your high school diploma, you must meet California State Minimums. Minimums. However, to be eligible for a four-year university like the CSU or UC, you must complete "A-G" Subject Requirements with higher grades.

1. Comparison of Subject Requirements



Subject Area	CA High School Graduation	CSU & UC Admission (A-G)
History / Social Science	3 Years	2 Years
English	3 Years	4 Years
Mathematics	2 Years (Algebra I)	3 Years (Algebra II/Int. Math 3)
Science	2 Years (Bio & Physical)	2 Years (Lab Science)
Language (Not English)	1 Year (VAPA, Language, or CTE)	2 Years (Same Language)
Visual & Performing Arts	(See above)	1 Year
College Prep Elective	N/A	1 Year
Physical Education	2 Years	N/A

> **Pro-Tip:** UCs and CSUs strongly recommend a 4th year of math and a 3rd year of science to be competitive!

2. Grade and GPA Requirements



- **High School Graduation:** You generally need a grade of "D" or higher to earn credits for your diploma.
- **CSU Admission:** You must earn a "C" or higher in all A-G courses. Minimum GPA: 2.50 (California Residents).
- **UC Admission:** You must earn a "C" or higher in all A-G courses. Minimum GPA: 3.00 (California Residents).

3. Key Deadlines for 2026 Graduates



UC/CSU Application Period: October 1 – November 30 (Senior Year)

FAFSA / Dream Act: Opens in December/January

Need help? See your School Counselor to check your "A-G" status!

Proposed Changes?

Subject	Current Requirement	Proposed Requirement	The Outcome
Math	2 Years *1 Additional Year of Math or Science	3 Years *IM 1, IM 2, and 1 Additional Year of Math	Match UC/CSU Minimum Entrance Requirement Prepare for technical demands of high demand, high wage careers
Science	2 Years *1 Additional Year of Math or Science	3 Years *Biology, Chemistry, and 1 Additional Year of Science	Strong Recommendation of UC and CSUs to be competitive
Social Science	4 Years	3 Years	Match State Graduation Requirements Opens Schedule for College & Career Courses
Health	1 Semester	Integrate into Science	Opens schedule for College & Career Courses Strengthens Real-World Connections Between Science and Health
College & Career Readiness Courses	Not Required	3 Years	Aligns with State Criteria Identifying Students as Prepared for College and/or Careers at Graduation

MOVING TO THREE FULL YEARS OF BOTH MATH AND SCIENCE PREPARES STUDENTS FOR THE TECHNICAL DEMANDS OF 21ST-CENTURY CAREERS AND HIGHER EDUCATION. MANDATORY "COLLEGE & CAREER COURSES" (A-G, AP, DUAL ENROLLMENT, OR CTE) ENSURES STUDENTS GRADUATE PREPARED FOR COLLEGE AND/OR INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATIONS. BY INTEGRATING HEALTH COMPONENTS DIRECTLY INTO THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM, WE REDUCE REDUNDANCY AND OPEN UP SPACE IN STUDENT SCHEDULES FOR SPECIALIZED ELECTIVES.

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT COMPARISON

Subject	ABC	Long Beach	Paramount	Downey	Compton	Proposed BUSD
English	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years
Math	3 Years	4 Years	3 Years	3 Years	3 Years	3 Years
Social Science	3 Years	3 Years	3 Years	3 Years	3 Years	3 Years
Science	2 Years	2 Years	3 Years	2 Years	2 Years	3 Years
World Lang OR VAPA	1 Year	1 Year	1 Year FL, VAPA, OR CTE	FL 2 Years VAPA 1 Year	FL OR VAPA 1 Year Comp Lit 1 Year	3 Years CCR: A-G, AP, DE, or CTE (1 year must be in WL, VAPA, OR CTE)
PE	2 Years	2 Years	2 Years	2 Years	2 Years	2 Years
Health	1 Semester		1 Semester	1 Semester	1 Semester	
Electives	75	60	55	45	55	40
Total	230	220	220	220	220	220

Draft 4 Year Schedule - 8 period

9th* *Remove Health, 7 Periods Required	**10th** 7 Periods Required	**11th** 7 Periods Required	**12th** 6 Periods Required Unless on Track for A-G
English	English or English 10 Ethnic Studies	English	English
Elective or Foundations of Ethnic Studies	World History	US History or US History Ethnic Studies	Gov/Econ or Gov/Financial Literacy
Math	Math	Additional Math	Math Elective
Biology	Chemistry	Additional Science	Elective
P.E.	P.E.	ELD, Elective	ELD, Elective
World Language, VAPA, OR CTE	World Language, VAPA, OR CTE	A-G, AP, CTE, Dual Enrollment	A-G, AP, CTE, Dual Enrollment
ELD, AVID, Elective	ELD, AVID, Elective	AVID, Elective	AVID, Elective
Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective

*Students must take at least one semester of Ethnic Studies and one semester of Personal Finance

Draft 4 Year Schedule - 6 Period

9th* *Removed Health	**10th**	**11th**	**12th**
English	English	English	English
Elective or Foundations of Ethnic Studies	World History	US History	Gov/Econ or Gov/Financial Literacy
Math	Math	Additonal Math	Math Elective
Biology	Chemistry	Additional Science	A-G, AP, CTE, Dual Enrollment
P.E.	P.E.	*A-G, AP, CTE, Dual Enrollment	ELD, Elective, or A-G, AP, CTE, Dual Enrollment
ELD or World Language, VAPA, OR CTE	ELD or World Language, VAPA, OR CTE	Elective or World Language, VAPA, OR CTE	Elective or World Language, VAPA, OR CTE

*If Student Still Needs ELD, Schedule
ELD/ELA Course to allow for an elective



WILL CURRENT HIGH SCHOOLERS BE AFFECTED?

NO. CHANGES WILL BE PHASED IN STARTING WITH THE INCOMING FRESHMAN CLASS DURING THE 26-27 SCHOOL YEAR TO ENSURE NO STUDENT HAS THEIR GRADUATION PLAN DISRUPTED MID-WAY.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HEALTH CURRICULUM?

THE STATE-MANDATED HEALTH STANDARDS AREN'T GOING AWAY; THEY ARE BEING WOVEN INTO OUR SCIENCE COURSES. THIS ENSURES STUDENTS SEE THE BIOLOGICAL AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF HEALTH IN A MORE COHESIVE WAY.

WHAT COUNTS AS A "COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS COURSE"?

ANY A-G COLLEGE PREP ELECTIVE, ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSE, DUAL ENROLLMENT COLLEGE COURSE, OR CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) COURSE.

MY CHILD DOESN’T PLAN TO GO TO A 4-YEAR COLLEGE. HOW DOES THIS HELP THEM?

THE "FUTURE READY" PLAN IS ACTUALLY BETTER FOR STUDENTS ENTERING THE WORKFORCE OR TRADE SCHOOLS. BY REQUIRING CTE PATHWAYS AND 3 YEARS OF MATH/SCIENCE, WE ARE GIVING THEM THE TECHNICAL LITERACY NEEDED FOR MODERN TRADES (SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION, ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, NURSING, OR RENEWABLE ENERGY) THAT PAY SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER WAGES THAN ENTRY-LEVEL SERVICE JOBS. REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEMANDS INDICATE THAT POSITIONS OFTEN REQUIRE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATES, OR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING TO ACHIEVE HIGH-WAGE OUTCOMES.

KEY BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

MOST 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES EXPECT A MINIMUM OF 3 YEARS OF MATH AND 2 YEARS OF SCIENCE. BY MAKING THREE YEARS OF MATH AND SCIENCE THE STANDARD, OUR STUDENTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR A WIDER RANGE OF COLLEGES WITHOUT NEEDING TO TAKE "CATCH-UP" CREDITS.

REAL-WORLD READINESS

THROUGH THE NEW COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS COURSE REQUIREMENT, EVERY STUDENT WILL ENGAGE IN HIGH-LEVEL COURSEWORK. WHETHER IT'S ANY A-G, CTE, AP, OR DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSE, STUDENTS WILL GRADUATE WITH MORE THAN JUST A DIPLOMA—THEY'LL HAVE COLLEGE CREDITS, INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS, AND BE READY FOR COLLEGE & CAREERS.

MORE ROOM FOR CHOICE

BY INTEGRATING HEALTH INTO SCIENCE AND STREAMLINING SOCIAL SCIENCE, STUDENTS HAVE MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS TO PURSUE ELECTIVE PASSIONS OR SPECIALIZED CAREER PATHWAYS.

Grad Requirement Update Timeline

APRIL/MAY

Admin, Counselor, Teacher Leader Input

Educational Partner Input Advisory Groups

Board Update on Process and Input Collection April 23

MAY

Board Review 1st Read of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation May 15

JUNE

Board Approval of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation

JULY

Update Course Matrix if needed



“OUR STUDENTS ARE COMPETING GLOBALLY. THESE CHANGES MOVE US FROM ASKING 'DID YOU PASS?' TO 'ARE YOU PREPARED?'”

#BUSD #BUSDSTRONG #FUTUREREADY